

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, May 9, 2016**

**The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, May 9, 2016, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. Chairman John Bento called the meeting to order at approximately 7:13 PM.**

**Present: John C. Bento, Chairman; Paul Silva, Vice-Chairman; Karen Lynch, Secretary; Marjorie McBride, Treasurer; Diana Campbell, William O'Dell, John Saviano, and Erin Schofield; Mario J. Andrade, Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy & Title 1; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Pauline Silva, Director of Administration & Finance; and Andrew Henneous, District Solicitor**

**Absent: Lynn Wainwright**

**OPENING BUSINESS**

**All present were invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC FORUM**

**There was no public comment.**

## **AGENDA FOCUS:**

### **Digital Learning Team Presentation**

**Mr. Tom Driscoll thanked the parents and students who participated in the Digital Learning Projects Gallery Walk held earlier this evening. He commented that the prevailing “take home message” from the Digital Learning Projects Gallery Walk is the energy and enthusiasm generated from the use of technology tools. Mr. Driscoll added that the Digital Learning Projects presented this evening were not about consumption, but about creating through collaboration.**

**Mr. Driscoll began his Digital Learning Team Presentation by sharing about the characteristics of a Digital Learning Lab.**

**Mr. Driscoll shared the following Design Focus points expanding upon each:**

- Skill/Student Outcome**
- Teaching Strategy**
- EdTech Tool/Resources**

**Mr. Driscoll asked several teachers and students to come forward to share their Digital Learning Lab experiences.**

**Ms. Hilary Pietz, Guiteras 5th Grade Teacher, and several of her students talked about utilization of a class online blog and how the use of Weebly, Kidblog and Edublogs EdTech tools have aided their**

**growth academically.**

**Ms. Stephanie Pedro and several of her 4th grade students shared about their positive experiences using the No-Writing Program which utilizes Touchcast. One student shared her Touchcast video story regarding her study on the biography of Albert Einstein.**

**Ms. Rachel Beagan, Hugh Cole 1st Grade Teacher, shared about the concept of “App Smashing” which takes multiple technologies and melds them together to create a new product for use in developing student critical thinking skills through learning experiences.**

**Ms. Beagan shared two examples of one student’s digital learning portfolio which showcased the completion of a math problem and the progress the student made from the first example completed in October to the second example completed in December.**

**Ms. Beagan also shared examples of student Assessment Literacy projects using graphs.**

**Ms. Beagan also talked about “Wonder Projects” which focuses on those subjects the student specifically wants to learn. Through the process, the student researches their subject and then creates media, such as a movie, to share what they have learned.**

**Ms. Jennifer Saarinen, KMS Math Teacher, spoke about the use of**

**Asynchronous Video discussions using Flipgrid for the completion of math problems. She shared a math student's Flipgrid video.**

**Ms. Nicole Galipeau, Guiteras Teacher Librarian, described her role and experience with classroom teachers and students during a recent land-forms study in which the students utilized Touchcast.**

**Mr. Driscoll closed by thanking the students and teachers who came out this evening. He commented that the digital learning work speaks for itself by showcasing the benefits of technology in the classroom.**

**Mr. Saviano asked Mr. Driscoll to share about the recent KMS Parent Tech night. Mr. Driscoll responded that the KMS Parent Tech Night was hosted with several teachers and parent groups to demonstrate and share with the community the benefits of tech integration within the classroom. Parent questions were answered at that time.**

**Chairman Bento thanked Mr. Driscoll and the teachers and students for their presentations.**

**Dr. Andrade commented that the Digital Learning Lab presentations showcased a culmination of the District's positive direction over the last three years through Assessment Literacy, learning collaboration, descriptive feedback, action research, safe learning environments, and empowerment of students and teachers. Dr. Andrade thanked Mr. Driscoll and the teachers and students who presented this**

evening.

Ms. Sanna stated that it has been amazing to watch the Digital Learning Project evolve. Ms. Sanna cited the many benefits of Digital Learning and the positive impact on both teachers and students.

{Chairman Bento stated that due to the fact that he is short for time and will need to leave the meeting, he will be moving the Chairman's Report re: School Based Meetings up in the order of business.}

**Chairman's Report re: School Based Meetings**

Chairman Bento stated that at the conclusion of his report, he will turn the meeting over to Vice-Chairman Paul Silva.

Chairman Bento read the following report:

The intent of this brief is to describe my findings during two visits to each of our six (6) school communities within the Bristol Warren Regional School District. The first visit is to listen to PTO members describing a few accolades and recommended improvements for their school community. The second school visit is with the principal, and in some cases school assistant principals, to address PTO praises and concerns. Extra time is used for an informal Q & A session, driven by either party.

**The purpose of this report is to fulfill a number of our school committee goals - professional development, school community outreach, communications, safety, security, policy considerations, and rethinking budget resourcing and priorities to name a few. I will sit down with the Superintendent to review this report in detail in early June. I will use this report to create new school committee agenda items. Other school committee members are welcome to suggest agenda items related to this report as well.**

### **MHHS-School Improvement Team:**

#### **Accolades:**

- College Fair with Barrington, this year at MHHS. Great opportunity for college bound students.**
- Text message sign-ups are a great tool for students and parents alike; a great way to pass on information and messages from guidance.**
- AP courses on the rise (20 requests for psychology; Spanish Literature, research seminar and environmental science next year; the following year looking to add music and art history).**
- More effort by the department chairs to seek student feedback**
- Paint the front hall**
- Improvements in student tardiness**

#### **Recommended Improvements:**

- Girl's bathroom. Need to replace sinks. There is horrible water**

**pressure.**

**-Social Media Tools. Protocols and how to handle code violations?  
Is it teacher's discretion or not? It is a great learning tool, but  
susceptible to abuse.**

**-Administrators and teachers ramp up for PARCC to improve  
communications and technical support**

**KMS:**

**Accolades:**

**-“Team Transformers” highlighted as a great team and good  
practices are being cross-leveled to other teams.**

**-More involvement from parents and teachers**

**-Guidance rotates counselors with each class to sustain cohesion  
and easier tracking.**

**-Great turnout for sports, in particular basketball. There is increased  
interest in flag football and volleyball, but tennis numbers not great.**

**-May 4th Parent Tech night. Train parents on ASPEN (a means to  
communicate between school and parents)**

**Recommended Improvements:**

**-IEP was brought up as a need fixing by one parent, but  
administrators feel wrap-around services are a strong point. They  
will follow up with this particular parent.**

**-Talk of a need to challenge students excelling in class, but are made  
to wait while the others catch up.**

- Sign up for sports can be difficult. The fix is to do more paperwork on-line.**
- Sub-shortages is a significant problem**
- Leaky roof, between new building and old, outside the library.**

#### **Colt/Andrews:**

##### **Accolades:**

- Parents very happy to be involved in selecting Kate as the principal.**
- Great group of supporting parents**
- More economic diversity in the school; good inclusion effort by the team there.**
- Food drives**

##### **Recommended Improvements:**

- Science Fair: Is there a better way than to have a parent rotate out every year or two?**
- More school committee attendance at the PTO meetings and school visits**

#### **Hugh Cole School:**

##### **Accolades:**

- Dismissal much improved-teachers out there to meet parents.**
- Book club awesome, Gingerbread express to sponsor families with a toy, cut hair for donations and a number of other events**



**-Morning breakfast well received by most**

### **Recommended Improvements:**

- A couple of parents complained about PARCC and standardized testing in general.**
- Parents concerned about the length of time students are on the bus in the morning waiting to come off.**
- Parents asked if there could be more than one recess per day?**

### **Guiteras**

#### **Accolades**

- Technology. Every request is fulfilled.**
- Garden project**
- All Chorus concert!**
- Recycling-Green team**
- Boston Museum trip**

### **Recommended Improvements**

- Supplies, but there was a shortage in glue sticks due to depot.**
- District wide calendar to capture all school events**
- Regrouting stone steps**
- Literacy support**

### **Rockwell**

### **Accolades:**

- Podcast reports, much more engaging than traditional reports on the state bird. More research!**
- Kids zumba and exercise programs in addition to daily recess.**
- Spanish Class! Senor Leonard!**

### **Recommended improvements:**

- Air Quality, more specifically in regards to early school year heat wave. I addressed my recommendations and our superintendent is on board with those efforts (more bubbler/water cooler and restroom trips and fans)**
- More than one recess per day?**
- Like HCS, no time in the morning to get the wiggles out.**
- Some complaints on the drop off procedures. I believe fixed.**

**All spoke about great teachers and parents. Need to improve Stop n Shop bucks membership! Great Wellness!**

**Chairman Bento closed by stating that if School Committee members would like elaboration on any of the points mentioned in his report or would like to see any of the points included on a future agenda, to contact the secretary to the School Committee directly.**

**Chairman Bento turned the meeting over to Vice-Chairman Paul Silva.**

**{Chairman Bento left at 8:20 p.m.}**

### **School Committee Professional Development**

**Mrs. Campbell shared about the recent changes in the law requiring six hours of School Committee Professional Development annually, and the provision for obtaining RIASC approved Professional Development outside of RIASC's Monthly offerings.**

**In an effort to make Professional Development training more convenient for School Committee members to attend, Mrs. Campbell and Dr. Andrade collaborated on a proposal for creating relevant, RIASC approved, in-house School Committee Professional Development.**

**Mrs. Campbell shared the process by which the proposed Professional Development topics were chosen.**

**Mrs. Campbell has requested that each School Committee member choose eight of the topics. Once a consensus of topics is reached, details for the specific training will be ironed out.**

**Mr. Saviano asked what monies will be used to fund the proposed School Committee Professional Development.**

**Mrs. Campbell responded that she is hoping to use internal sources. She stated that the budget has a line item for Professional**

**Development. Mrs. Campbell commented that collaboration with other schools in the State could be another means for covering the cost of School Committee Professional Development.**

**Mrs. Campbell reiterated that the proposed “in-house” RIASC approved School Committee Professional Development is still in the infancy stage. Mrs. Campbell stated that the plan going forward is to develop relevant and intentionally timed School Committee Professional Development using qualified instructors.**

**Mr. Saviano and Mrs. Schofield raised concerns about utilizing a district-based School Committee Professional Development over the Professional Development provided by RIASC.**

**A discussion ensued.**

**Mr. Saviano highlighted the thoroughness of the School Committee 101 course provided by RIASC citing 8-10 hours of training. He is concerned that the proposed hour-long District Based School Committee 101 would not compare.**

**Mrs. Campbell responded that a majority of the School Committee members currently sitting on the Board have been members for years. As such, the School Committee 101 would serve only as a refresher. Mrs. Campbell clarified that the intention of the District Based School Committee 101 was not intended to replace or**

**condense what is provided during RIASC's School Committee 101. All new School Committee members would be strongly encouraged to attend the in-depth School Committee 101 provided by RIASC.**

**Mrs. Schofield raised the issue that the proposed list of School Committee Professional Development topics seems more appropriate for a School Committee Workshop.**

**A discussion ensued.**

**Dr. Andrade stated that many of the proposed School Committee Professional Development items came from themes at the national level. The intent is to ensure that once RIASC approves the District based Professional Development that much time is put into developing the course and objective. Dr. Andrade stated that the proposed once-a-month hour-long Professional Development is for the purpose of being a facilitative conversation based off of the course objective. The whole purpose of School Committee Professional Development is to "push our thinking".**

**Dr. Andrade reiterated that there is excellent work happening during the Saturday Professional Development sessions at RIASC.**

**Dr. Andrade stated that the District can explore School Committee Professional Development possibilities and follow RIASC protocol for approval.**

**Mrs. Campbell clarified that the District-based School Committee Professional Development is not meant to replace RIASC or the Bryant College conferences, but to provide other opportunities for School Committee members to attend training.**

**Several School Committee members expressed their support of a District-based School Committee Professional Development.**

**Mr. Silva stated that the intent of tonight's discussion regarding School Committee Professional Development was to merely have a conversation. No action can be taken tonight. Mr. Silva charged Mrs. Campbell with taking the comments and information received this evening and presenting them to the Chair for his guidance on setting a future direction for School Committee Professional Development.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:46 P.M.**

**Pursuant to Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5 (a) (2) for the following:**

- 1. Legal Advice: re: Town of Warren Litigation**

**Mr. Silva stated, for the record, that no action will be taken during the executive session and that the open session will simply reconvene to adjourn.**

**MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to go into executive session at 8:46 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. Campbell. The motion passed**

**unanimously.**

**MOTION: Mrs. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the executive session at 9:02 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. McBride. The motion passed unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT – 9:03 P.M.**

**MOTION: At 9:03 p.m. Mrs. McBride motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Lynch.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Karen A. Lynch, Secretary**

**/kd**